JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained here in neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	BEFENDANTS	TION CE	OUP I P						
MICHAEL SMITH				PREMIER EDUCATION GROUP, L.P., PREMIER EDUCATION GROUP, L.P., PREMIER EDUCATION GROUP, L.P., d/b/a HARRIS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, and PREMIER EDUCATION GROUP G.P., INC.					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Burlington County				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant New Haven County					
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
				Attornava (ICK					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Christopher R. Booth, Jr., Esq. Derek Smith Law Group PLLC 1845 Walnut St. Suite 1601, Philadelphia, PA 19103				Attorneys (If Known)					
					- INCIR	I DADTIEC			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPA	L PARTIES	(Place an "X" in and One Box for		
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	Ճ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)		F	TF DEF	Incorporated or Pr		PTF	DEF
2 U.S. Government Defendant	Diversity (Indicate Citizensh)	nip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	2 🗖 2	Incorporated and I of Business In		o 5	a 5
					3 🗇 3	Foreign Nation		6	6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	Place an "X" in One Box Or	nly)	FO	reign Country	Click	here for: Nature of	of Suit Code Des	scription	<u>.s.</u>
CONTRACT	TO	ORTS	FC	RFEITURE/PENALTY		KRUPTCY	OTHER S	TATUT	
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability		5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other	☐ 423 Witho	al 28 USC 158 Irawal SC 157	375 False Cla 376 Qui Tam 3729(a))	(31 USC	
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability 320 Assault, Libel &	☐ 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical			PROPERTY RIGHTS 400 State Reap				nent
& Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act	Slander	Personal Injury			☐ 820 Copyr	rights	430 Banks an		g
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal			☐ 830 Paten	t t - Abbreviated	☐ 450 Commercial 460 Deportation		
Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)	340 Marine 345 Marine Product	Injury Product Liability	1		New 1	Drug Application	470 Racketee	er Influenc Organizati	
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability	PERSONAL PROPERT		LABOR	SOCIAL	SECURITY	480 Consume	er Credit	
of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	☐ 370 Other Fraud ☐ 371 Truth in Lending	0 71	0 Fair Labor Standards Act	☐ 861 HIA (☐ 862 Black		☐ 490 Cable/Sa☐ 850 Securitie		dities/
190 Other Contract	Product Liability	☐ 380 Other Personal	- 72	0 Labor/Management	☐ 863 DIW	C/DIWW (405(g))	Exchang	ge	
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	360 Other Personal Injury	Property Damage 385 Property Damage	O 74	Relations 0 Railway Labor Act	☐ 864 SSID ☐ 865 RSI (4		890 Other Sta		tions
	362 Personal Injury -	Product Liability		1 Family and Medical		,,,,	☐ 893 Environm	nental Mat	
REAL PROPERTY	Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	79	Leave Act O Other Labor Litigation	FEDERA	L TAX SUITS	895 Freedom	of Inform	nation
210 Land Condemnation	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	Habeas Corpus:		1 Employee Retirement	☐ 870 Taxes	(U.S. Plaintiff	☐ 896 Arbitration	- CONT.	
☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	441 Voting 442 Employment	☐ 463 Alien Detainee ☐ 510 Motions to Vacate		Income Security Act	or De	fendant)	☐ 899 Administ	trative Pro	
240 Torts to Land	☐ 443 Housing/	Sentence				SC 7609	Agency I	Decision	
☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	530 General 535 Death Penalty	635.5	IMMIGRATION			950 Constitut State State		f
2 270 mi outer real Property	Employment	Other:		2 Naturalization Application	1		State State	utes	
	446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	☐ 540 Mandamus & Other ☐ 550 Civil Rights	□ 46	5 Other Immigration Actions					
	448 Education	555 Prison Condition		Actions					
		560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of							
		Confinement							
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	One Box Only)				•				
I Original □ 2 Rer	moved from 3	Remanded from Appellate Court		stated or 5 Transfer sened Anothe (specify)	r District	6 Multidistr Litigation Transfer	-	Multidist Litigation Direct Fil	n -
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	1.28 U.S.C. §§13	tute under which you are 31 and 1345 and 31	filing (I	o not cite jurisdictional stat		versity):			
	Brief description of car RETALIATION UN	use: NDER THE FALSE (CLAIM	S ACT and WRONG	FUL TER	MINATION			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.				EMAND \$	С	HECK YES only URY DEMAND:	0.000 - 00.00	complair No	nt:
VIII. RELATED CASE									
IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	T NUMBER			
DATE SIGNATURE OF ACTIONNEY OF RECORD SIGNATURE OF ACTIONNEY OF RECORD									
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	// /								
RECEIPT # AM	ount	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUD	OGE		

JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 06/17)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.

 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. Address of Plaintiff: 1 Foxcroft Way, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 Address of Defendant: 545 Long Wharf Drive, New Haven, CT 06511 Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Upper Darby, PA (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space) Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? Yes No No (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) No⊠ Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Date Terminated: Case Number: Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes No 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously Yes□ No terminated action in this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? No CIVIL: (Place in one category only) B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: A. Federal Question Cases: 1.

Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 1. D Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2.

Airplane Personal Injury 2. D FELA 3. D Jones Act-Personal Injury 3.

Assault, Defamation 4.

Antitrust 4.

Marine Personal Injury 5. D Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 5. D Patent 6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please specify) 6. □ Labor-Management Relations 7. M Civil Rights 7. D Products Liability 8. Products Liability - Asbestos 8.

Habeas Corpus 9. □ All other Diversity Cases 9. D Securities Act(s) Cases 10. □ Social Security Review Cases (Please specify) 11. □ All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check Appropriate Category) Christopher R. Booth, Jr., Esq. counsel of record do hereby certify: Y Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; Relief other than monetary damages is sought **DATE:** 05/23/2018 59395 Attorney I.D.# NOTE: A trial do novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38. I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above. Alforney-at-Law DATE: 05/23/2018 59395 Attorney I.D.# CIV. 609 (5/2012)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

MICHAEL SMITH,		CIVIL ACTION			
	: :	CIVIL ACTION			
v.	<u>:</u>				
PREMIER EDUCATION GROUP, L.F. PREMIER EDUCATION GROUP, L.F. HARRIS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, an PREMIER EDUCATION GROUP G.P.	2. d/b/a d	NO.			
In accordance with the Ciplaintiff shall complete a Giling the complaint and se side of this form.) In the designation, that defendant the plaintiff and all other p	vil Justice Expense and Delay I Case Management Track Designarve a copy on all defendants. (See e event that a defendant does not t shall, with its first appearance.	Reduction Plan of this court, counse ation Form in all civil cases at the tine § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the rest agree with the plaintiff regarding submit to the clerk of court and server Designation Form specifying the ed.	ne of verse said ve on		
SELECT ONE OF THE	FOLLOWING CASE MANAG	GEMENT TRACKS:			
a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.					
b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. (
(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.					
(d) Asbestos – Cases invo exposure to asbestos.	lving claims for personal injury	or property damage from	()		
commonly referred to	- Cases that do not fall into track as complex and that need special side of this form for a detailed	or intense management by			
management cases.)	side of this form for a detailed of	explanation of special	()		
(f) Standard Management	- Cases that do not fall into any	one of the other tracks.	(x)		
05/23/2018	Quall Zoll	Plaintiff			
Date	Attorney-at-law	Attorney for			
215-391-4790	215-493-5288	christopher@dereksmithlaw.com			
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address			
(Civ. 660) 10/02					

Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan Section 1:03 - Assignment to a Management Track

- (a) The clerk of court will assign cases to tracks (a) through (d) based on the initial pleading.
- (b) In all cases not appropriate for assignment by the clerk of court to tracks (a) through (d), the plaintiff shall submit to the clerk of court and serve with the complaint on all defendants a case management track designation form specifying that the plaintiff believes the case requires Standard Management or Special Management. In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.
- (c) The court may, on its own initiative or upon the request of any party, change the track assignment of any case at any time.
- (d) Nothing in this Plan is intended to abrogate or limit a judicial officer's authority in any case pending before that judicial officer, to direct pretrial and trial proceedings that are more stringent than those of the Plan and that are designed to accomplish cost and delay reduction.
- (e) Nothing in this Plan is intended to supersede Local Civil Rules 40.1 and 72.1, or the procedure for random assignment of Habeas Corpus and Social Security cases referred to magistrate judges of the court.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CASE ASSIGNMENTS (See §1.02 (e) Management Track Definitions of the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan)

Special Management cases will usually include that class of cases commonly referred to as "complex litigation" as that term has been used in the Manuals for Complex Litigation. The first manual was prepared in 1969 and the Manual for Complex Litigation Second, MCL 2d was prepared in 1985. This term is intended to include cases that present unusual problems and require extraordinary treatment. See §0.1 of the first manual. Cases may require special or intense management by the court due to one or more of the following factors: (1) large number of parties; (2) large number of claims or defenses; (3) complex factual issues; (4) large volume of evidence; (5) problems locating or preserving evidence; (6) extensive discovery; (7) exceptionally long time needed to prepare for disposition; (8) decision needed within an exceptionally short time; and (9) need to decide preliminary issues before final disposition. It may include two or more related cases. Complex litigation typically includes such cases as antitrust cases; cases involving a large number of parties or an unincorporated association of large membership; cases involving requests for injunctive relief affecting the operation of large business entities; patent cases; copyright and trademark cases; common disaster cases such as those arising from aircraft crashes or marine disasters; actions brought by individual stockholders; stockholder's derivative and stockholder's representative actions; class actions or potential class actions; and other civil (and criminal) cases involving unusual multiplicity or complexity of factual issues. See §0.22 of the first Manual for Complex Litigation and Manual for Complex Litigation Second, Chapter 33.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MICHAEL SMITH,	Civil Antion No.				
Plaintiff,	Civil Action No.:				
-against-	COMPLAINT				
PREMIER EDUCATION GROUP, L.P., PREMIER EDUCATION GROUP, L.P. d/b/a HARRIS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, and PREMIER EDUCATION GROUP G.P., INC.	Plaintiff Demands Trial by Jury				
Defendants.	That by July				
Plaintiff, Michael Smith, by and through his undersigned counsel, brings this Complaint					
against Premier Education Group, L.P., Premier Education Group, L.P. d/b/a Harris School of					
Business, and Premier Education Group, GP, Inc., and avers as follows:					

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1345 and 31 U.S.C. §3732.
- 2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over each of the Defendants pursuant to 31 U.S.C. §3732(a) because Defendants can be found, reside, or transact business in this District. In addition, this Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because acts prohibited by 31 U.S.C. §3729 occurred in this District.
- Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 31 U.S.C. §3732(a) because Defendants transact business in this District and numerous acts proscribed by 31 U.S.C. §3729 occurred in this District.

THE PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff, Michael Smith ("Plaintiff" or "Smith") is an individual and citizen of the State of New Jersey, residing at 1 Foxcroft Way, Mount Laurel, New Jersey.
- Defendant, Premier Education Group, L.P. ("Premier") is a privately-owned
 Pennsylvania limited partnership with its principal place of business located at 545 Long
 Wharf Drive, New Haven, Connecticut.
- 6. Defendant, Harris School of Business ("Harris") is a registered fictitious name which was filed by Premier with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Corporations with an entity number of 3794114. Premier owns the fictitious name "Harris School of Business."
- 7. Defendant, Premier Education Group, GP, Inc. ("PEG GP") is a Pennsylvania corporation with a place of business located at 100 South Shore Drive, East Haven, Connecticut. At all relevant times, PEG GP is the general partner of Premier.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 8. According to Premier's website, "[a]s one of the nation's leading private owned career training organizations, [Premier] offers professional career-focused education at over 30 campuses concentrated in the Northeastern United States as well as campuses in Florida."
- 9. Premier's website also represents that, "In each of its campuses, [Premier] is committed to providing students with the necessary skills and attitudes to secure employment in their field of training. Through the combination of professional faculty, focused support services and modern, well-equipped facilities, [Premier] strives to foster pride, dignity and self-respect in its student body. [Premier] provides students with a solid educational foundation with which to build their future professional development."

- 10. Despite the representations made on its website, Premier has a checkered history of regulatory issues relating to the operation of its schools, including issues involving compliance with government programs relating to the receipt of financial aid from its students.
- 11. On or about July 25, 2017, Premier offered Plaintiff the position of Campus Director and/or President of the Harris campus located in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania (the "Upper Darby Campus").
- 12. As the Campus President, Plaintiff reported directly to the Regional Vice President of Operations, Carol Heininger and his duties included overseeing the management and operation of the Upper Darby Campus.
- 13. Prior to being hired, Plaintiff interviewed with Peter Karas at Defendants' Linwood, New Jersey offices (the "Linwood Campus"). Plaintiff had a second inter
- 14. Shortly thereafter, Premier provided Plaintiff with a brief tour of the Upper Darby Campus as part of his interviewing process. The tour was limited because there was a huge student fight which occupied the attention of many of the staff.
- 15. Notwithstanding the fight, the Upper Darby Campus was represented to Plaintiff as the "darling" of Harris because of its profitability. Moreover, the Chief Operating Officer, Vincent Garcia stated that "as [the Upper Darby Campus] goes, the company goes." In addition, Mr. Garcia asked what he thought of the campus. Plaintiff responded that the campus was not up to expected standards and needed a substantial amount of updates.
- 16. Accordingly, Plaintiff was eager to get started and work in one of the Defendants' flagship schools at the Upper Darby Campus.